

Jeni Bern

SOPRANO



Jeni Bern is lyric soprano of exceptional versatility. A graduate of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland) and the Opera School of the Royal College of Music she won many major awards and prizes, including a Wingate Scholarship and the prestigious President Emerita Award. She is also a Samling Artist.

Recent highlights include Lilli Vanessi/Katherine in *Kiss Me Kate*, directed by Jo Davies; Susie Trevor in *Lady, Be Good* at the Teatro de la Zarzuela, directed by Emilio Sagi and Fiordiligi in Phelim McDermott's production of *Così fan tutte* for English National Opera.

Her varied stage roles have included Paquette *Candide* (Théâtre du Châtelet, Teatro alla Scala and Hyogo Performing Arts Centre, Kobe); also for Théâtre du Châtelet - Zdenka *Arabella* and Sister Margaretta / Baroness Elsa *The Sound of Music*; roles for Opera North include Tytania *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Musetta *La bohème*, Susanna *The Marriage of Figaro*, Trixie *Let 'em Eat Cake*, Gretel *Hansel & Gretel* and La Princesse *L'enfant et les sortilèges*; Emma Jones *Street Scene* (Opéra de Toulon). Roles for the Royal Opera, Covent Garden include Guardian of the Threshold *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, First Heavenly Voice *Palestrina*, Barbarina *Le nozze di Figaro* and Blumenmädchen *Parsifal* (with Plácido Domingo); Jano *Jenůfa* (Glyndebourne); Mabel *The Pirates of Penzance*; Yum Yum *The Mikado*, Sophie *Der Rosenkavalier* and Amor *Orpheus & Eurydice* all for English National Opera; Amour *Orphée et Eurydice* (Welsh National Opera); Medea *Teseo* and Susanna *The Marriage of Figaro* (English Touring Opera); Eurydice *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Opera Holland Park); Musetta *La bohème* and Oscar *Un Ballo in Maschera* (Opera Zuid). For the London Handel Festival she has performed the title role in *Deidamia* and Sigismondo *Arminio*; Atalanta *Xerxes* and Dalinda *Ariodante* (Early Opera Company) and Narcissa *Philemon und Baucis* with Trevor Pinnock.

As an accomplished oratorio and concert artist, Jeni is in demand with leading conductors and choral societies throughout the UK and Europe.

Highlights include Cunegonde *Candide* (MDR-sinfonieorchester, Leipzig); Teixeira's *Te Deum* at Macau International Music Festival with Harry Christophers and the Sixteen; Cupid in Purcell's *King Arthur* with Paul McCreesh and the Gabrieli Consort at the Bergen Festival; with The Academy of St Martin in the Fields and Sir Neville Marriner *Mozart Requiem*, also Haydn's *The Creation* for The Three Cultures International Festival Murcia, Spain; *Messiah* with Sir David Wilcox and the Bach Choir; Finzi's *Dies Natalies* with the St Gallen Bachchor; and with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra *Carmina Burana* and Mozart's *Exsultate Jubilate*.

World premieres include Michael Torke's *Book of Proverbs* at the Festival with the RSNO and Marin Alsop and for De Doelen, Rotterdam Vivaldi's *Dixit Dominus* and Teutile in Vivaldi's *Motezuma*.

Radio appearances included BBC Radio 2's iconic *Friday Night is Music Night* and broadcasts for BBC Radios 3 & 4 and with the Dutch Radio Symphony Orchestra as Anne Truelove in the television series *Of Beauty and Consolation*. Her CD *Let the Bright Seraphim* with Baroque trumpeter Crispian Steele-Perkins (Carlton Classics) received considerable critical acclaim. Other recordings include *Acis and Galatea* with the Oxford Philomusica (Nimbus); Haydn *Stabat Mater* with Christ Church Cathedral Choir (Griffin) and Edward Joseph Collins *Hymn to the Earth* with the RSNO and Marin Alsop.

Forthcoming engagements include Woglinde & Waldvogel in *Der Ring des Nibelungen* for Opera North, Eve in the premiere Kemal Yusuf's *Cain* with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, conducted by David Parry and further performances as Lilli Vanessi in *Kiss Me Kate* for Welsh National Opera.